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Mengele vanished, says Paraguayan leader

FROM COMBINED DISPATCHES

The West German magazine Quick quoted the president of Paraguay yesterday as saying Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele once lived in Paraguay but is no longer there.

Last night's ABC-TV network news also carried an interview by correspondent John Martin with Paraguay's President Alfredo Stroessner covering the same ground.

Mengele, a Nazi doctor known as the "Angel of Death" for conducting medical experiments on inmates at the Auschwitz concentration camp in occupied Poland during World War II, fled to South America at the end of the war and obtained Paraguayan citizenship in 1959, which was revoked in 1979 under international pressure.

"I can assure you that Mengele is not living in Paraguay," the Munich illustrated weekly quoted Gen. Stroessner as saying. "It is a fact that Mengele did live in Paraguay until he was declared a war

criminal. As I have told you before, we don't shut our doors on anyone."

According to Quick, Gen. Stroessner said that after the search for Mengele was under way, Paraguay issued a warrant for his arrest. Mengele then disappeared from the country. He gave no dates for when Mengele lived in Paraguay.

Mengele has not been definitely sighted since the early 1960s. Reports have surfaced over the years that he had been seen in various parts of the world but nothing has been confirmed.

Should he still be here — which I deny — the Paraguayan police have instructions to arrest him. They would have found him long ago," Mr. Stroessner was quoted as saying.

ABC News showed Beate Klarsfeld — the Nazi hunter who tracked down Klaus Barbie, "the Butcher of Lyon" — displaying a letter directing the search for Mengele to an area of eastern Paraguay. The television news segment noted that Para-

guayan courts have issued orders for Mengele's arrest six times in the past four years, but the police commissioner in the remote area told ABC he had not seen any of them.

The Washington Times announced March 26 that it is offering a \$1 million reward for evidence instrumental in the apprehension, trial and conviction of Mengele.

In recent weeks, West Germany has also stepped up efforts to find the Nazi war criminal and put him on trial. The government is offering 1 million marks equivalent to \$314,000 for information leading to his arrest.

"I can assure you emphatically that Mengele is not living in Paraguay," said President Stroessner, who plans to travel to West Germany in July.

Mengele, who would have celebrated his 74th birthday last month if still alive, decided which prisoners were to be sent to the gas chamber and which he would use in his "gruesome" medical experiments to find a "master race."

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